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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,608	02/20/2002	Shantanu Sarkar	062891.0634	9550

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 04/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/081,608	Applicant(s) SARKAR ET AL.	
	Examiner Thjuan P. Knowlin	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,23,24,52,53,56 and 57 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,9-22,25-51,54 and 55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,23,24,52 and 53 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on February 01, 2006 has been entered. No claims have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-57 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 2, 15, 30, 40, 47, 51, 56, and 57 being independent.
2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7-8, 23-24, 52-53, and 56-57 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The invention as now claimed is not disclosed nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record. As to claims 7-8, 23-24, 52-53, and 56-57, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the recited method, in which an indication of a request for text is received in response to an action selected from the group consisting of a participant placing the conference call on hold and a participant muting the call. No prior art was found that discloses or teaches the limitations of claims 7-8, 23-24, 52-53, 56-57.

5. Claims 7-8, 23-24, and 52-53 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-2, 15, 16, 30, 31, 40, 41, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (JP 10-136327).
8. In regards to claims 1, 15, 30, 40, and 51, Takahashi discloses a method and system for conducting a conference call between two or more participants (See Abstract), comprising: receiving an indication of a request (e.g. the request is made through the changeover made section 8) for text from a participant of the conference call who has previously received speech from another participant of the conference call; in response to the indication from the participant, converting any speech of the other participants of the conference call into text; and sending the text to a device (e.g.

display device) associated with the participant from which the indication of a request for text was received, the device capable to display the text (See Abstract).

9. In regards to claims 2, 16, 31, and 41, in addition to the above, in Takahashi the video of the speaking participant is sent to the local participant, this video reads on the sending of the identity of the speaking participant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 3-6, 9-14, 17-22, 25-29, 32-39, 42-50, and 54-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (JP 10-136327), in view of Cohen (US 6,501,739).

11. In regards to claims 3, 17, and 32, Takahashi discloses all of claims 3, 17, and 32 limitations, except the method and system, further comprising encrypting the text. Cohen, however, discloses the method and system, further comprising encrypting the text (See col. 3 lines 41-57 and col. 7 lines 7-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ this feature within the system, as a way of transforming the data into a form unreadable by anyone, therefore, ensuring privacy/security by keeping the information hidden from anyone for whom it is not intended.

12. In regards to claims 4, 13, 18, 29, and 33, Takahashi discloses all of claims 4, 13, 18, 29, and 33 limitations, except the method and system, further comprising sending to the device the speech corresponding to the text. Cohen, however, discloses the method and system, further comprising sending to the device the speech corresponding to the text (See col. 3 lines 51-57 and col. 7 lines 7-15).

13. In regards to claims 5, 19, 34, 39, and 44, Takahashi discloses all of claims 5, 19, 34, 39, and 44 limitations, except the method and system, wherein the text comprises a timestamp, the timestamp associating the text with speech corresponding to the text. Cohen, however, discloses the method and system, wherein the text comprises a timestamp, the timestamp associating the text with speech corresponding to the text (See col. 3 lines 51-57 and col. 7 lines 7-15).

14. In regards to claims 6, 20, and 21, Takahashi discloses all of claims 6, 20, and 21 limitations, except the method, further comprising recording the text at the device. Cohen, however, discloses the method, further comprising recording the text at the device (See col. 11 lines 56-65).

15. In regards to claims 9, 10, 25, 26, 54, and 55, Takahashi discloses all of claims 9, 10, 25, 26, 54, and 55 limitations, except the method, wherein the indication of a request for text comprises an indication that a button is depressed on a telephone associated with the participant requesting text. Cohen, however, discloses the method, wherein the indication of a request for text comprises an indication that a button (key) is depressed on a telephone associated with the participant requesting text (See col. 7 lines 7-15 and col. 11-12 lines 66-20).

16. In regards to claims 11, 12, 27, 28, 38, and 46, Takahashi discloses all of claims 11, 12, 27, 28, 38, and 46 limitations, except the method and system, wherein the indication of a request for text comprises an indication that the participant requesting text is suppressing transmission of voice media packets to the participant requesting text. Cohen, however, discloses the method and system, wherein the indication of a request for text comprises an indication that the participant requesting text is suppressing transmission of voice media packets to the participant requesting text (See col. 9-10 lines 63-8).

17. In regards to claim 14, Takahashi discloses all of claim 14 limitations, except the method, further comprising alerting the participant requesting text that a specific one of the other participants is speaking. Cohen, however, discloses the method, further comprising alerting the participant requesting text that a specific one of the other participants is speaking (See col. 8 lines 56-67).

18. In regards to claims 22, 35, and 45, Takahashi discloses all of claims 22, 35, and 45 limitations, except the method and system, wherein recording the text and speech comprises recording the speech and text within a central storage unit attached to the network. Cohen, however, discloses the method and system, wherein recording the text and speech comprises recording the speech and text within a central storage unit (See Fig. 2 and storage device 30) attached to the network (See col. 11 lines 56-65).

19. In regards to claims 36, 47, 48, 49, and 50, Takahashi discloses all of claims 36, 47, 48, 49, and 50 limitations, except the system, wherein the device is a text display screen coupled to an Internet Protocol phone. Cohen, however, discloses the system,

wherein the device is a text display screen coupled to an Internet Protocol phone (See Fig. 1, computers 16, and communicators 10) (Fig. 1 and col. 5 lines 35-60).

20. In regards to claim 37, Takahashi discloses all of claim 37 limitations, except the system, wherein the device is a computer. Cohen, however, discloses the system, wherein the device is a computer (See Fig. 1 and computers 16) (Fig. 1 and col. 5 lines 48-60).

21. In regards to claims 42 and 43, Takahashi discloses all of claims 42 and 43 limitations, except the system, further comprising a communication means for listening to the speech, the communication means coupled to the display means. Cohen, however, discloses the system, further comprising a communication means (See Fig. 1 and communicators 10) for listening to the speech, the communication means coupled to the display means (See Fig. 1 and computers 16) (See Fig. 1 and col. 5 lines 35-60).

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cruickshank (US 6,816,468) teaches captioning for teleconferences.

24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

25. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on (571) 272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

26. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thjuan P. Knowlin


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